



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the unparalleled beauty of New York State is highlighted throughout the year -- from the shores of the Great Lakes to the coastal waters of Long Island, across the majestic High Peaks to the scenic Southern Tier; however, each season brings the threat of severe weather which may endanger public safety, increase the risk of property damage, and disrupt the daily lives of residents of the Empire State; and

Whereas, this past year saw the calm of the North Country shattered by an earthquake that struck in April, causing extensive damage, and Christmas Day 2002 marked the start of a classic Northeast winter with storms that deposited record-setting levels of snow in Central and Eastern New York; each time, the State and local response was swift and effective; and

Whereas, such a degree of reliability not only helps people during times of need, but also saves lives and is achieved through years of planning and training by a partnership of State, federal and local agencies, volunteer organizations and the private sector; the National Weather Service is a vital component of that partnership, continually working to improve its capability to track severe weather and give advance notice to localities with regard to impending storms and other weather-related conditions; and

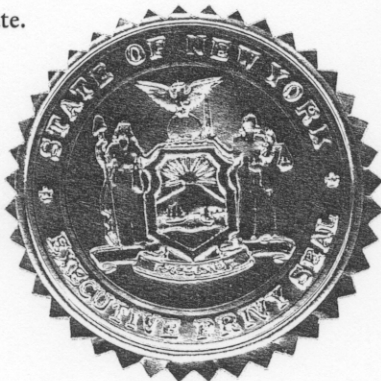
Whereas, New York State is fortunate to have such an excellent emergency management system that continues to alert the public of impending weather hazards; a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers has proven to be effective time and again when forces of nature threatened to disrupt the daily lives of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, each individual and member organization of this critically-important partnership is encouraged to participate in training exercises - including the 15th annual New York State Hazardous Weather communications drills - to raise the levels of preparedness and responsiveness to severe weather, to further ensure the well-being of our citizens, and to safeguard the economic vitality of communities across our State;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim March 16-22, 2003 as

WEATHER HAZARDS AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth day of January in the year two thousand three.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor